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25X1 REFERENCE: [REDACTED]

ATTACHMENT TO L-4749
24 JANUARY 1968
PAGE 1

RAIL ACTIVITY
NINH BINH-THANH HOA AREA, NORTH VIETNAM

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS DAYTIME RAIL ACTIVITY DURING THE 31 DECEMBER 1967 - 2 JANUARY 1968 TRUCE PERIOD.

2. REMARKS:

THE 200 NM RAIL LINE FROM HA NOI TO VINH IS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL TRANSPORTATION LINKS BETWEEN HA NOI AND THE SOUTHERN PROVINCES OF NGHE AN, HA TINH, AND QUANG BINH. THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ATTACH TO THIS RAIL LINE IS SHOWN BY THEIR CONTINUING RECONSTRUCTION OF DAMAGED BRIDGES, REPAIR OF INTERDICTED POINTS, AND CONSTRUCTION OF BY-PASS BRIDGES BEFORE THE ORIGINAL BRIDGES HAVE BEEN DAMAGED BY US AIRSTRIKES. DESPITE FREQUENT INTERDICTIONS BY US AIRCRAFT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE CONTINUE TO USE THE RAIL LINE BUT SELDOM DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS.

THE RAIL LINE SOUTH FROM THANH HOA TO VINH IS USUALLY SERVICEABLE TO LORRY-DRIVEN TRAINS, SEVERAL OF WHICH WERE OBSERVED IN OPERATION DURING THE 25 DECEMBER 1967 TRUCE, AND AT LEAST ONE OBSERVED SOUTHBOUND WITH TWO LORRIES AND TEN SMALL CANVAS-COVERED FLATCARS ON 1 JANUARY 1968.

3. MISSION READOUT:

25X1 PHOTOGRAPHY [REDACTED]

REVEALS THE NINH BINH TO

THANH HOA SEGMENT OF THE HA NOI/VINH RAIL LINE TO BE SERVICEABLE. CONSIDERABLE

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NGA review(s)
completed.

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GROUP 1
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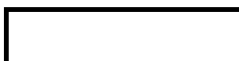
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RAIL ACTIVITY (130 PIECES OF ROLLING STOCK AND 9 STEAM LOCOMOTIVES) WAS APPARENTLY OBSERVED INVOLVED IN THE TRANSPORT OF MATERIALS DURING THE 1967 - 68 NEW YEAR TRUCE PERIOD. THE FOLLOWING DEPICT THE BEST EXAMPLES OF THIS RAIL ACTIVITY:

1. AT 2015N 10559E, A THREE-SECTION RAIL BRIDGE IS IN PLACE ACROSS THE SONG DAY (RIVER) AT NINH BINH. THIS IS THE FIRST SIGHTING OF THIS PONTOON RAIL BRIDGE IN PLACE ALTHOUGH THE PONTOON SECTIONS HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN OBSERVED MOORED TO THE BANKS OF THE RIVER. THIS RAIL BRIDGE PROVIDES A SERVICEABLE LINK FOR RAIL TRAFFIC FROM HA NOI TO THANH HOA.



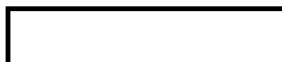
25X1

2. RAIL-TO-ROAD/ROAD-TO-RAIL TRANSSHIPMENT ACTIVITY IS IN PROGRESS ON A RAILROAD SIDING AT NINH BINH (2014N 10558E). THREE BOXCARS ARE PARKED ON THE SIDING. PILES OF MATERIAL/SUPPLIES ARE STACKED BESIDE ONE OF THE CARS. ONE HALF-FULL CARGO TRUCK IS PARKED BESIDE THE SUPPLIES, AND ANOTHER SMALLER TRUCK IS OBSERVED NEARBY.



25X1

3. A SUPPLY TRAIN, PROBABLY STATIONARY, IS OBSERVED ON THE MAIN LINE 1.5 NM SOUTH OF NINH BINH AT 2013N 10558E. NINE OPEN GONDOLA CARS EITHER FILLED OR PARTIALLY FILLED WITH SACKS OF MATERIALS, FOUR SMALL POL RAIL CARS CAMOUFLAGED TO APPEAR AS BOXCARS, AND ONE BOXCAR MAKE UP THE SUPPLY TRAIN. THE ENTIRE TRAIN WAS NOT IMAGED.



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4. A SOUTHBOUND SUPPLY TRAIN WAS OBSERVED AT 2002N 10551E MOVING SOUTH OF THE NINH BINH/THANH HOA RAIL SEGMENT APPROXIMATELY 14 NM NORTH OF THANH HOA. IT CONTAINS 11 BOXCARS, 8 CANVAS - COVERED FLAT-CARS AND 2 COVERED GONDOLA CARS.

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5. THIS PHOTOGRAPH SHOWS STATIONARY ROLLING STOCK ON THE MAIN LINE APPROXIMATELY 6 NM NORTH OF THANH HOA AT 1954N 10549E. THE ROLLING STOCK INCLUDES 11 GONDOLA CARS FILLED WITH CRATED/PACKAGED MATERIALS, 5 GONDOLA CARS WITH BAGGED MATERIALS, 1 CANVAS-COVERED GONDOLA CAR, 3 BOXCARS, AND 3 POL CARS CAMOUFLAGED AS BOXCARS.

[REDACTED] 25X1

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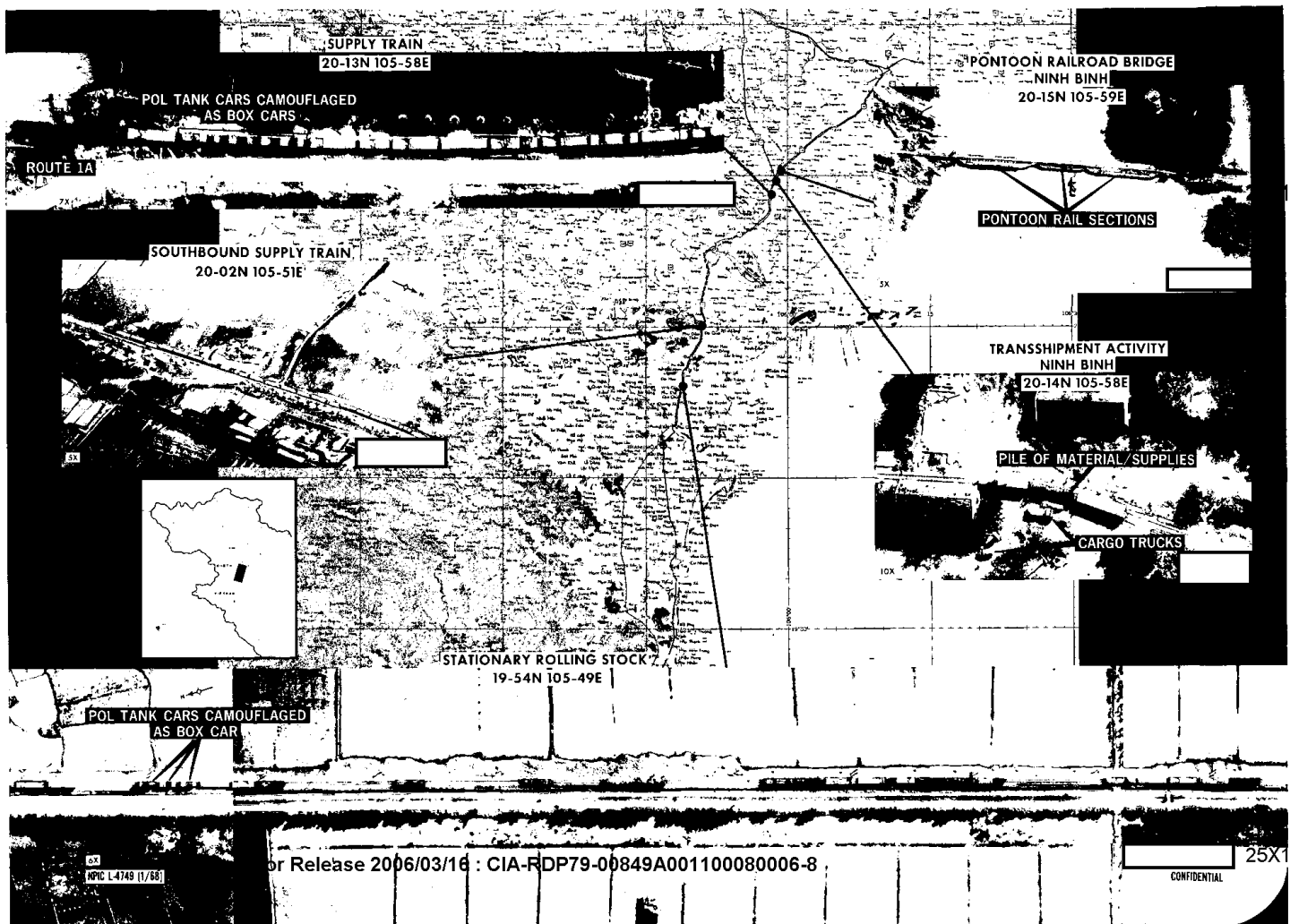
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